



Van Buskirk Hits the Deckplates Running

By MC3 JAMES R. EVANS
Penny Press staff

In the two months since assuming command of Carrier Strike Group Nine, Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk has hit the deck running, familiarizing himself with the ships and aircraft of the strike group as well as his new flagship, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).

"I'm kind of awestruck in terms of seeing the ship in its normal routine and just the size and the multitude of operations that the ship conducts simultaneously," said Van Buskirk, a former submarine commander. "To see how much this ship gets done in a day is truly amazing."

Van Buskirk's primary role as commander of the strike group is to orchestrate that multitude of operations with those of the ships of Destroyer Squadron 9 and the aircraft of Carrier Air Wing 2 to ensure that, when the time comes to deploy, each unit is ready to operate together as a whole. With eight ships and 10 aircraft squadrons spread out over a wide geographical area, from Oceana, Va. to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, this is no small task.

Van Buskirk said that his goal is to continue to integrate the strike group team and look at all areas to mitigate risk so that Strike Group Nine and its individual components can be called upon as "the unit of choice" based on their demonstrated ability to execute the mission.

"My three watch words, so to speak, are 'on-time, ready, and flexible,'" Van Buskirk said. He explained that while being on time is something everyone in the Navy must strive for, it must never take a back seat to being ready.

"You can be on time, but not be ready, and that has a cascading effect because now you have other people and units involved," he said.

Also important however, is flexibility, which Van Buskirk says is the key to overcoming the biggest challenge Sailors face: managing uncertainty.



Photo By MCSN Brandon Wilson

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 9, discusses flight deck operations aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) with Cmdr. Brad Margeson, the ship's air boss during a familiarization visit to Lincoln last month. Buskirk, who took command of Strike Group 9 in March has been touring the ships and squadrons of the strike group emphasizing his leadership philosophy and goals.

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Lincoln Baseball Fans Enjoy Mother's Day at Safeco Field

By MC1 (AW/SW) PATRICK SULLIVAN
Penny Press staff

Sailors from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and their families took in a baseball game for Mother's Day at Safeco Field last week. Lincoln Sailors enjoyed the game from a luxury suite provided by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreations department.

"It's really a great deal, and you couldn't ask for a better place to watch the game," said John Porter, MWR coordinator for Lincoln.

"We had the suite that serves 40 people, and 50 great seats in the stadium available at a reduced price as well," said Porter. Sailors in the suite enjoyed a full view of the stadium from right field, as well as a fully catered spread with hot dogs, hamburgers and a

variety of drinks.

Ship's Serviceman Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Walker from Lincoln's Supply Department and his wife Shannon enjoyed the game with their daughter Jocelyn and Shannon's parents Stan and Soni. Shannon recently gave birth to their daughter Jocelyn.

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ADMIRAL

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"When you can't be on time or ready, flexibility pertains to how you can adapt to that and come up with a course of action so that you can accomplish your mission," Van Buskirk said. "That's not just a strike group thing, it's on an individual and an institutional level, whether you're a carrier trying to get underway or a Sailor performing a planned maintenance."

Van Buskirk said that in order to meet the objectives of being 'on-time, ready, and flexible,' leaders must ensure that their people are given the tools and the opportunities that they need to make the mission

a success while building trust within the organization.

"My leadership philosophy is about the people; understanding their capabilities and what they bring to the table," Van Buskirk said. "In my experience when you give people the opportunity to excel, they will almost always eclipse what you thought they possibly could do."

Van Buskirk added that former CCSG9 Rear Adm. John W. Goodwin's advice to him before his departure was in keeping with his own philosophy about letting his people do what they do best.

"Admiral Goodwin was very proud of

the Strike Group's capability and his advice was to let my people train me because they're great people, and they'll continue to amaze me with their abilities."

Van Buskirk graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979 and spent much of his career aboard submarines, including tours as executive officer of USS Georgia (SSBN 729) and as commanding officer of USS Pasadena (SSN 752). He was selected for flag officer in 2004 and, before taking command of Carrier Strike Group Nine, served as the Senior Naval Officer on the Multi-National Force-Iraq staff.

BASEBALL

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"This Mother's Day is special, since it's my first as a Mother," she said. The group was decked out in Mariners regalia

"Mother's Day is special because it gives us mothers an opportunity to really appreciate all that we have in our family," said Toni.

Lt. Tony Mojica of AIMD Department brought his wife Cindy and two kids Catelyn and Adam to the game to root for their beloved Yankees.

"I called my mother this morning and just told her I love her and wished her a happy Mother's Day," said Mojica.

A large electronic bulletin board displayed the words 'HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY' as Lois Youngen, ex-player for the All American Girl's Professional Baseball League threw out the first pitch of the ball game, dedicating it to her late mother.

Throughout Major League Baseball on Sunday, players batted with pink bats to raise awareness for the fight against breast cancer. Seventeen players from the Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees used pink bats, with an added dedication to local woman Susan G. Komens' battle with the disease.



Photo By MC1 (AW/SW) Patrick Sullivan

Lt. Tony Mojica, his wife Cindy, and their kids Catelyn and Adam celebrate mother's day together while rooting for the Yankees during Sunday's game at Safeco Field. Lincoln Sailors enjoyed the game from a luxury suite provided by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department.



Had a drink? Get a ride!
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A phone call now can save you a
headache later.



Movie tickets are on sale in the MWR office
for \$5 each. Tickets can be purchased for
Regal and AMC/Lowes theaters.



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Lincoln Pride

Charting a Course



Local Stories

A Thank You to the Families of Abraham Lincoln

By CAPT. C.A. McCawley
Commanding Officer, USS Abraham Lincoln

As the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN prepares for its return to an operational readiness status, I would like to thank every family member for your continued support and sacrifice during the industrial availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The shipyard brings with it its own unique set of demands that can be many times at least as challenging as operations. Your outstanding efforts have not gone unnoticed. It is truly fortunate that ABRAHAM LINCOLN Sailors have your backing and support.

2007 has been a demanding year for ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the crew and the families. The schedule will have the ship leaving Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington next month, after its extended stay for industrial maintenance. The



entire crew continues to get ready for at-sea operations of every kind and the ship's eventual deployment in support of the National Security Strategy and the Navy's Fleet Response Plan.

At all times, but maybe even more

so as the transition from shipyard to sea occurs, a crucial element of success is consistent and effective communication. ABRAHAM LINCOLN's Command Ombudsmen are available to help answer questions and address issues that you may have. There are also steps you can take to increase your awareness and to help ensure everything goes as smoothly as possible.

The first step is to visit our command website at www.lincoln.navy.mil and click on crew support and then the ombudsman button. There you'll find phone numbers and emails for our command ombudsmen. Please contact one of them with questions. You can also call the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN care-line at (425) 304-5070 for a variety of information regarding the ship and activities in the area. Again, thank you for all that you do.

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CO holds Q&A with Lincoln spouses

Capt. C. A. McCawley, Commanding Officer USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) held Town Hall question/answer sessions with Lincoln Sailors' spouses and families at Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton's base theater May 15 and the Naval Station Everett Commons May 17. Families residing on both sides of Puget Sound came to hear what the Captain had to say about the ship's schedule and the progress that has been made during Lincoln's time in Bremerton. "We must continue to reinforce the importance of what your spouses are doing," McCawley said. "Abraham Lincoln's mission is very much dependent on your spouses' work, and it must be completed no matter how hard and demanding it may be."

Photo By MCSN Brandon Wilson



May 18, 1775

May 18, 1798

-Benedict Arnold captures a British sloop and renames her Enterprise, the first of many famous ships to bear that name.

-Benjamin Stoddert is appointed as the first Secretary of the Navy.

Local Sports & Entertainment

A Look Back at a Classic of Kung Fu Fighting

BY MCSN JOSEPH SCARBERRY
Penny Press Movie Correspondent

It's time to take a look back through time at the story of Wong Fei-Hung, a legendary martial arts hero of Canton, in the 1991 film "Once Upon a Time in China." The story is about the troubles of China when foreigners, including the English, French, and Americans, began plundering China in the 19th century and follows Wong Fei-Hung's martial arts school's efforts to protect their ideals and cultures from the western invasion.

In its day, the film won four awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards, including "Best Action Choreography" and "Best Original Film Score." All of its awards were well earned, with the film's dramatic and beautiful music adding to the high-tempo world of martial arts action.

The only major name in the film that we have seen in American films would be Jet Li, however he was supported by a full cast of brilliant martial artists from Chinese films. As expected, Jet Li's performance as both an actor and a martial artist does not disappoint viewers.

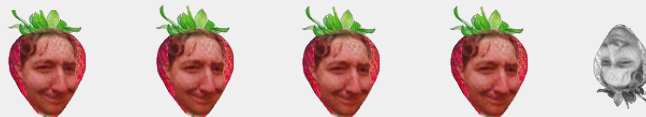
The film is almost entirely in Cantonese, though a few phrases are in English.



Empowered by its cast, the film is full of martial arts action, with an appropriate amount of comedy to carry the viewer from scene to scene. It's loaded with drama, action, and conflict between the militia of Wong Fei-Hung, the local government of their growing city, and the foreign powers docked in their ports.

In comparison to new martial arts films, nothing beats a classic and that is exactly what you get in the movie. Everything is about tradition, in and out of the story. Viewers get to see parts of Chinese culture from a 19th century perspective, with a well-written story that flows and doesn't drag. The movie is full of drama, action, and the constant twisting and turning of conflicts, both internal and external, all of which are elements that make a great story.

Overall, "Once Upon a Time in China" is a must-see movie for fans of martial arts flicks, and a good film to watch if the mood strikes you, but make sure you have plenty of time to dedicate to it, because the movie runs just over two hours long.



Four mighty, mighty Scarberries for this classic martial arts flick... if you can snatch them from the master's hand.

Lincoln Hound Dogs Chew Up Screaming Skull Cats

BY MCSN KATHLEEN CORONA
Penny Press staff

The Lincoln Hound Dogs, the varsity softball team for USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), crushed the Screaming Skull Cats from USS San Francisco (SSN 711) 18-5 in six innings of a softball game Tuesday evening at Naval Base Bremerton.

The Hound Dogs took an early lead in the 3rd inning and were able to maintain that lead to bring the Screaming Skull Cats down to a whisper.

A homerun hit by Hound Dog coach and pitcher Aviation Boatswains Mate Handler 1st Class (AW) Alton Keith in the first inning brought in Operations Specialist 3rd Class William Stricklan and put the Hound Dogs on the scoreboard early in the game.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler 3rd Class Tywane Tate hit a homerun for the Hound Dogs in the second inning, closing the inning at 3-3 for the Dogs.

In the third inning 11 RBIs were brought

in pushing the Hound Dogs into unreachable status.

By the bottom of the fourth inning a homerun by Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuels 3rd Class Keith Wallace brought the Hound Dogs up 14-4.

Due to time constraints, the umpire ended the game early at the bottom of the sixth inning to give the Hound Dogs the 18-5 victory.

"It felt really good winning the way we did," Keith said. "I got to get everyone in the game. Everyone contributed in one way or another in the win."

According to Keith, he's been coaching the Hound Dogs for two years, but has coached softball teams in the Navy for 15 years.

"I love playing and coaching softball," he said, "so I always make sure that every command I go to has a varsity softball team."

Keith said playing softball helps Sailors meet people from their command that they wouldn't meet normally.

"We have people from all over the ship on the team," he said.



Photo By MCSN Kathleen Corona

Lincoln's very own Hound Dogs pose for a group photo following their 18-5 victory over USS San Francisco's (SSN 711) Screaming Skull Cats, Tuesday.

The Lincoln Hound Dogs is made up of Sailors from various departments on the ship from Air to Weapons. Not only are the players from different divisions, but there are different ranks and rates on the team. From airman recruit to chief petty officer, when they're playing the game they're teammates.

The Hound Dogs are 2-1 for this season and are preparing for the Armed Forces Softball Tournament on Saturday and Sunday at Naval Sub Base Bangor.

Local Stories



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by MC3 Patrick Bonafede

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) William T. Taylor of Combat Systems CS-1 Division receives his letter of designation as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist from Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SW) Randy Vera during his pinning, Wednesday.

Lincoln the perfect backdrop for Hawks team photos



Photo by MC3 James R. Evans

Ricky Gaspar, an offensive lineman for the Everett Hawks Arena Football Team poses for a photo on Lincoln's flight deck Tuesday. The Hawks toured Lincoln and talked with Sailors on the flight deck before having their individual and team portraits taken for the team's website. For information on the Hawks game schedule and tickets, contact MWR.

Editor's Top 10

**Innappropriate times
to wear your flash
gear:**

10. While getting your passport photo taken

9. While shaving

8. At your family reunion

7. On a blind date (unless it's in Tacoma)

6. At church

5. In the pool

4. To a funeral

3. When you make it to the final round of American Idol

2. At the bank

1. Captain's Mast